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Report from Matanzas—Scarlet fever—Leprosy.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Nuñez reports, July 12, as follows:

During the week ended July 9, 1904, two bills of health were issued to vessels bound for United States ports.

There have been two cases of scarlet fever and one case each of enteric fever and leprosy reported in the city during the past week. The case of leprosy, according to information, originated in this city, and had been overlooked by the local health authorities until the patient, of his own accord, applied for admission to the civil hospital. The director of this institution, after making the diagnosis, reported the case to the health officer, who is taking the necessary steps to have the patient conveyed to Habana and there segregated at the San Lazaro Hospital. It was only recently that the case lodged in the city jail for the last four months was transferred to some other prison in Habana to serve out the sentence in the case for manslaughter, for which he was prosecuted and condemned.

The two new cases of scarlet fever occurred in a crowded tenement house not far from the center of the city, but in a different section and distant from the former foci of infection and not having any connection with the recent epidemic, therefore it is inferred that the contagion was imported again from Habana.

The first case, which was of a very mild type, happening in a negro child, and for which medical attendance had not been requested, was detected in the stage of desquamation, when a physician was called in to see the second case in the same family, and probably after the contagion had disseminated itself among the numerous inmates. The patients, who are now convalescent, have been sent to the civil hospital of this city for isolation, the infected rooms have been disinfected, and the remainder of the inmates, numbering about 30, are being subjected to a careful medical inspection every second day, in view of the impracticability of holding them in quarantine under guard as heretofore, for the reason that they are all poor laboring people without savings, depending upon their day wages to support themselves and families; and, on the other hand, the city is unable through lack of funds to provide for so many at a time during the long period of detention required. Consequently, the prospects are that the epidemic, not properly handled from the outset through the impossibility of carrying out the necessary precautions, will possibly spread this time beyond control, as has been the case in Habana and elsewhere.

Mortuary statistics of the city of Matanzas, July 1 to 10, 1904.

Causes of death.	Number of deaths.	Bertillon number.
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	6	27
Athrepsia	1	105
Meningitis	1	61
Septicæmia	1	20
Infection, putrid	1	20
Cancer of uterus	1	42
Enteritis	1	106
Lesion, cardiac (unqualified)	2	79
Cirrhosis of the liver	1	112
Abscess, perinephritic	1	121
Angina pectoris	1	80
Senility	1	154
Arterio-sclerosis	1	81
Total	19	

Annual rate of mortality per 1,000, 14.44; estimated population, 48,000.